AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A program product, comprising:

a program linking program recorded on a storage medium for causing a computer having a memory to function at least as:

linking means for linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storage means for storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of the linked program; and,

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is an increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs in the plurality of linked programs~~to create the pre-linked program~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management means causes the linking means to perform linking, and as a result determines the maximum cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs.

3. (Previously Presented) The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management means determines the cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs by evaluating the size of each of the plurality of linked programs at each stage of linking without causing the linking means to perform linking.

4-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A program linking method comprising:

linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program; and

storing in a memory the pre-linked program before completion of the linked program, wherein said

linking is performed preferentially, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order among the plurality of unlinked programs such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, and

wherein the predetermined priority order is an increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs in the plurality of linked programs~~to create the pre-linked program~~.

11. (Previously Presented) A program product comprising a program linking program recorded on a computer- readable storage medium for causing a computer having a memory function to function at least as:

linking means for linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storage means for storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of said linked program; and

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.

12. (Previously Presented) A program linking method comprising:

linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of the linked program; and

causing a linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.